HOUSE of the SUN

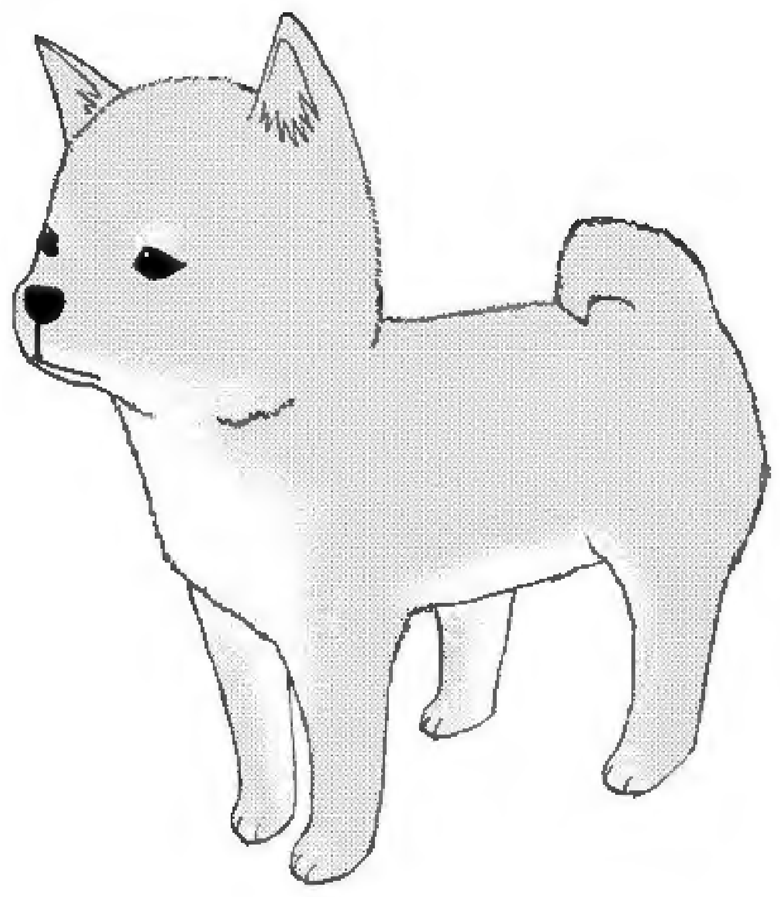
3

Taamo

HOUSE of the SUN

3

by Taamo



CONTENTS

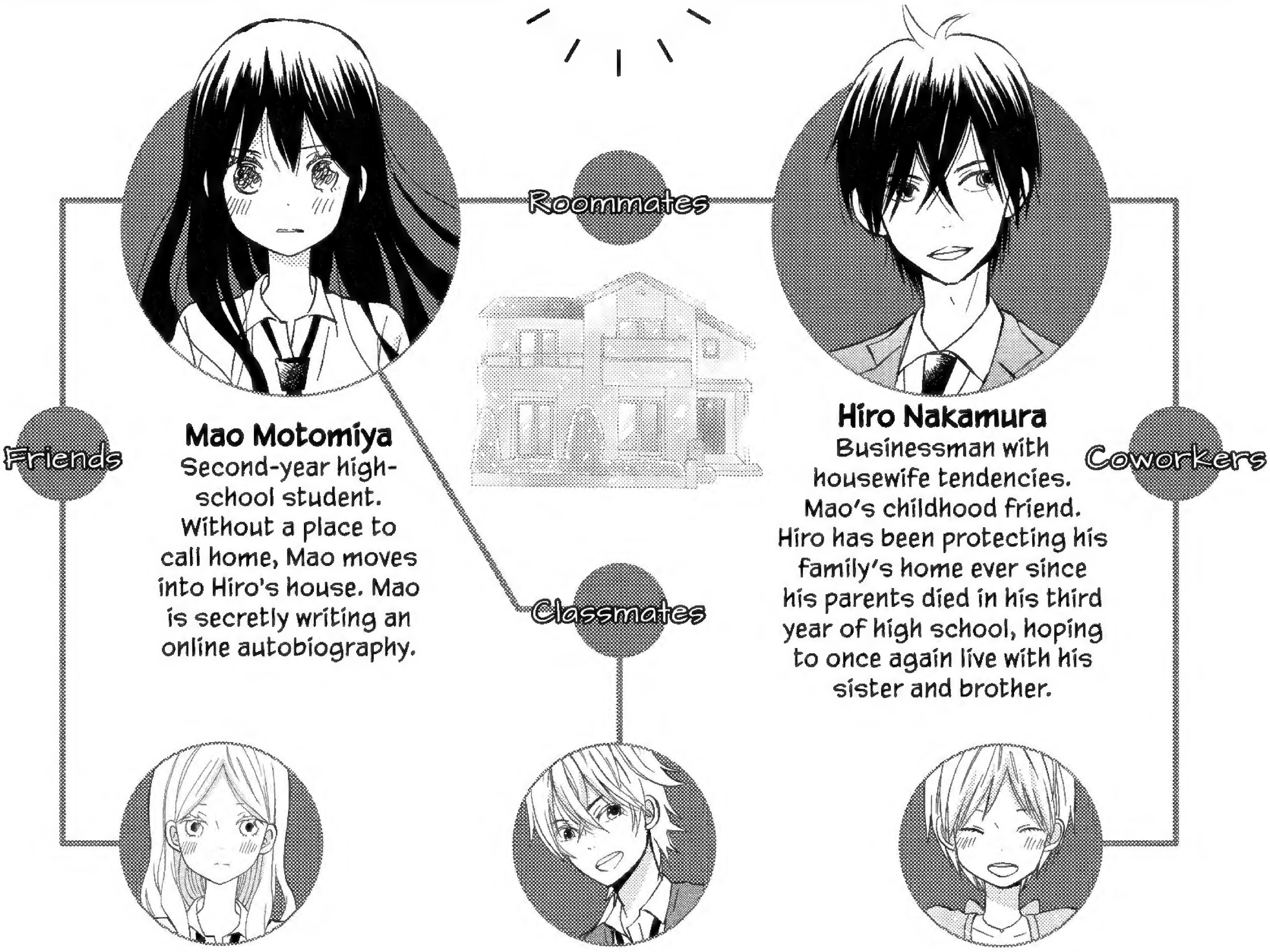
Story 9
A Father's Words
5

Story 10
The Ideal Date
43

Story 11
A Heart-to-Heart
81

Story 12
Bonds
119

CHARACTER



Mao Motomiya
Second-year high-school student. Without a place to call home, Mao moves into Hiro's house. Mao is secretly writing an online autobiography.

Hiro Nakamura
Businessman with housewife tendencies. Mao's childhood friend. Hiro has been protecting his family's home ever since his parents died in his third year of high school, hoping to once again live with his sister and brother.

Chi-chan
Mao's friend, who is in a different class. Could she have a crush on Oda-kun?

Oda-kun
Mao's classmate since first year. He confessed his love to Mao and got rejected, but isn't giving up.

Sugimoto-san
She is Hiro's coworker and has a secret crush on him. She is a fan of Mao's novel. Her pen-name is "Radical."

STORY

After her father gets remarried, Mao feels like she no longer has a home and ends up moving in with Hiro, her childhood friend.

Mao falls in love with Hiro, who is kind and takes care of her. She confesses her feelings to him, but then immediately takes it back, saying it was all a joke.

Around the same time, Mao discovers that Radical-san, a fan of her online novel, is Hiro's coworker and has a crush on him, too. What's more, Oda-kun from school confesses his love to Mao!

Mao finds herself moved by these two people who can be straightforward about their feelings...

Hello, my name is Taamo.
This is the third volume. I hope you enjoy it.

The terrible Tohoku earthquake occurred while I was putting together this book. Thank you for purchasing *House of the Sun!* I pray from the bottom of my heart that the victims and the areas affected by this disaster will recover as soon as possible.

-Taamo

story 9

A Father's Words

It was...
Hello. It's been a while.
...the first time he'd come by since Mao came to live with me.
Hello. I brought the payment for next month.
...
Please come in.
Mao is waiting.
I'm sorry. You've been a great help, Hiro.
I am truly grateful.
How is Mao doing?

You're not coming in?
You can see how she's doing for yourself.
Even if I saw her, I don't know what I'd say to her.
If she isn't causing you any trouble, then I'm fine.
And it doesn't seem like you want to see me, either.
Why don't I just deposit the money into your account from now on?
...
Well, then, I'll be leaving.

Please don't make a deposit.
Next month...
...and the month after...
...please just make sure to stop by.
And please say hi to her in person.
...

Good night.
Mao.
What's with him?
How can he call himself a father?

WHINE
きゅーん…
WHINE
きゅーん…
ひゃん…
YAP
YAP
ひゃんんっ
ひゃん
WOOF
ひゃんっ
WOOF
It's 5:00 AM.
きゃいん
YAP
きゃいん
YAP
Good morning, Croquette.
You're gonna wake up the neighbors.
YAP
きゅん
YAP
きゅん
…
ばた
THUD

There, there.
Okay, okay.
...
BEND
ガクッ
ぐーっ
zzz
ぐー
zzz
きゅーん
YAP
ぐーっ
zzz
ひゃんっ
WOOF
...
ひゃーん
WOOF
ひゃーん
WOOF
Croquette?
Hiro? What are you doing?
ぐー
zzz

Hiro, wake up.
つるんっ
SLIP
Whoa!
どしん
THUD
...
P-Pee...?
Wha- There's poop, too!
Ugh...

Since we got Croquette, every day has been filled with rowdiness.
I'm so sorry.
Apologizing to the neighbors for the barking at night...
Training her, cleaning up after her...
Having a pet dog is much more work than I expected.
YAP
きゅーん
Croquette! Okay, okay.
Even though it costs money...
...it's nice to have another family member, after all.
I brought the money to cover next month.

What's with his attitude?
It's his own daughter. I don't get it.
That day...
...the day Mao's father came to pay her room and board...
...I was so angry I could hardly speak with him.
I should've given him a piece of my mind.
Maybe there's a reason Mao's father is like that.

If Mao doesn't have the courage to confront him...
...then it's my duty to do so.
...
Hiro.
Should I soften the dry food with milk?
Oh, sorry.
Yes, milk is fine.
...
Ah!
I'm awake now!
?

Don't you need to get ready for school?
You'll be late.
Uh... I want to take today off.
What? Did something happen at school?
...
Hey, what's wrong?
Did you get a love confession?
Of course not!
Oh, to be young.
I was always working, so I never got to enjoy my youth.
ガシ ガシ
KSH
KSH
School is f-fine...
しどろ もどろ
BLUSH
FLUSH
No way! I was right!

Who is the boy, and where did he come from?
Why do I feel so irritable?
Hiro, that's too much.
GRR GRR
OVER-FLOWING
こんもり
Oh! Now that you mention it...
...there's a movie that I want to see.
Who are you going with?
Why are you upset?
I...I'll go by myself.
By yourself?
You like going to the movies alone?
How weird.
Not really, but it's a period drama.

In that case, want to go with me?
Why are you making that face?
Let's go together!
Let's go.

Okay.
CLICK
CLICK
カタカタ
YAWN
くあ
Excuse me... Um, Nakamura-san...

スーハー
GASP
SIGH
Do you like bowling?!
?
I guess.
I see... Do you like barbecues?
Not really. I'm more of an indoors type.
Are you conducting a survey?
What are you into, Sugimoto-san?
A survey...
No!
I like histo—
I mean, cooking and stuff...

Cooking?
Me, too.
Wow, really?
Yeah. I cook for myself as much as possible.
That's amazing! You live alone, right?
My sister lives with me now.
Um...
It's not a survey, but...
N-never mind...
Excuse me!

Hey, what was Sugimoto-san talking to you about? You lucky guy...
I'm not sure, but she did talk to me.
I want to talk to her, too!
Go ahead. It felt nice.
Oh, right. Nakamura-san, did you want to come to a group date with some hygienists next Sunday?
One of the guys canceled...
Oh.
I'm not good at group dates.
There's gonna be cute girls.
It's okay. I'm going to go see a movie with my sister that day.
And we've got a dog, so I have to get back home fast.
What? You're going to the movies with your sister?! That sounds like a date!

It's the first time that Mao and I are going out somewhere together.
Is it a date?
How can it be a date with my sister?
It's totally a date! She'll be calling you "dear brother" all day...!
The delusions of people without female siblings...
No, she won't.
You're so lucky!
How nice! If I had a cute sister at home, I wouldn't go on group dates, either!
What's with this fantasy?!
...
INCOMING MAIL
From
Subject

RADICAL-SAN

I'm sorry, Kuukai-san.

Is it okay if I mention you to the guy I have a crush on?

What? Why would she talk about me?

From **RADICAL-SAN**
Subject

I was so surprised the other day, so I didn't say anything, but the guy I like also reads your blog.

What? They've talked that much already?
どばっ
PANIC
I'll just die if Hiro finds out!
I have to tell her not to ever talk about me...! Ever!

From **RADICAL-SAN**
Subject

I see...

Of course.

I'll do my best on my own.

SIGH
ふー
BZZ
ヴーン

INCOMING MAIL
From CHI-CHAN
Subject
What did you talk about with Oda-kun?
Chi-chan...
Why is she texting me?
She could just ask me directly.
I wonder if Oda-kun said something to Chi-chan.
What should I tell her?
FWSH
さっ

Motomiya.
ドカッ
THUMP
When do you want to go see a movie?
Huh?
I...I can't go.
Sorry.
Is it because I said I like you?
...
Sorry.
It makes me really happy, but...
In this situation...

...I don't know what to say.
Whatever I say, it'll just hurt him.
And I know what it feels like...
...to be hurt.
...
ガタッ
RATTLE
Oh, Chi-chan.
タッ
DASH
What's going on? Is she okay?
Huh?
A look that says you can talk to me about anything.

Hey.
It's about you, though.
Bye!
Bye!
DROOP
しゅーん
Sugimoto-san, is something wrong?
Oh, no... Not at all.

Oh, would you like to join us for dinner?
I know a good place.
Huh?
I'm sorry, I've got plans today.
What? Who cares? It's just your sister, right?
That's not it.
Next time, okay?
Okay! Next time!
DING ピンポーン DONG

What are you doing here, Hiro? Did something happen with Mao?
No, I just came to talk about something.
I'm sorry for suddenly stopping by.
Are you free to talk now?
Oh, I'm free.
Wanna go for a drink?
I wanted to talk with him before going out with Mao.
There might be something she needs to know.

The fish here is excellent.
When the chef has time, he'll even make *namero**.
It's delicious.
Well, then, eat up.
I want to talk to you about Mao.
Mao?
You want to marry her or something?
...
Not at all.
...
The truth is, Mao actually wants to live with you.

*Chopped fish with miso

Oh?
I wonder why.
Because you're her father.
Chef! Please bring me my *shochu.*
Yes, sir!
You know, a father wouldn't normally allow his teenage daughter to live with a male friend, even if he were a childhood friend.
He'd be worried about what might happen.
Mao wants to stay there.
That's because she has nowhere else to go.

You're free to do what you want.
I trust you, Hiro.
...
You've worked hard to protect that house.
I mean, your brother and sister will have to change schools at some point...
Then you can ask for them to leave their current homes to come live with you.
That would be a good thing, right?
...
Well, well, drink up. Drink up.

What the heck...
...is wrong with this guy?!
Getting married is an option, too, though.
At the end of the day, you want a family, don't you, Hiro?
...to talk about that.
I didn't...
...come here...
You are Mao's true family...!

Next time...
...please meet with her...
...in person.
He never once...
...thought to ask if Mao could come home.

A man like this is a father...
A man like this has a family...
A man like this...
I'm home!
Oh. You're back late.
...
Mao.
Oh, Croquette, I'm home.
PACE
うろ…

PACE
うろ
PACE
うろ
What's going on?
Does she know I went to see her dad?
You don't notice anything?
?
I don't get it.
What?
What is it? Something about your dress?
But it's my first time ever.
Except in my school uniform.
SHOVE
ばしんっ
Ouch.

SHOVE
ばしっ
SHOVE
ばしっ
Ow, ow, ow, ow.
Why are you hitting me?!
わんっ
WOOF
わんっ
WOOF
I think I'll go...
Is this about me?

とん
THUNK
Uh...?! What?!
Ugh, ugh...
You're heavy.
Yeah, I'm kinda weighed down.

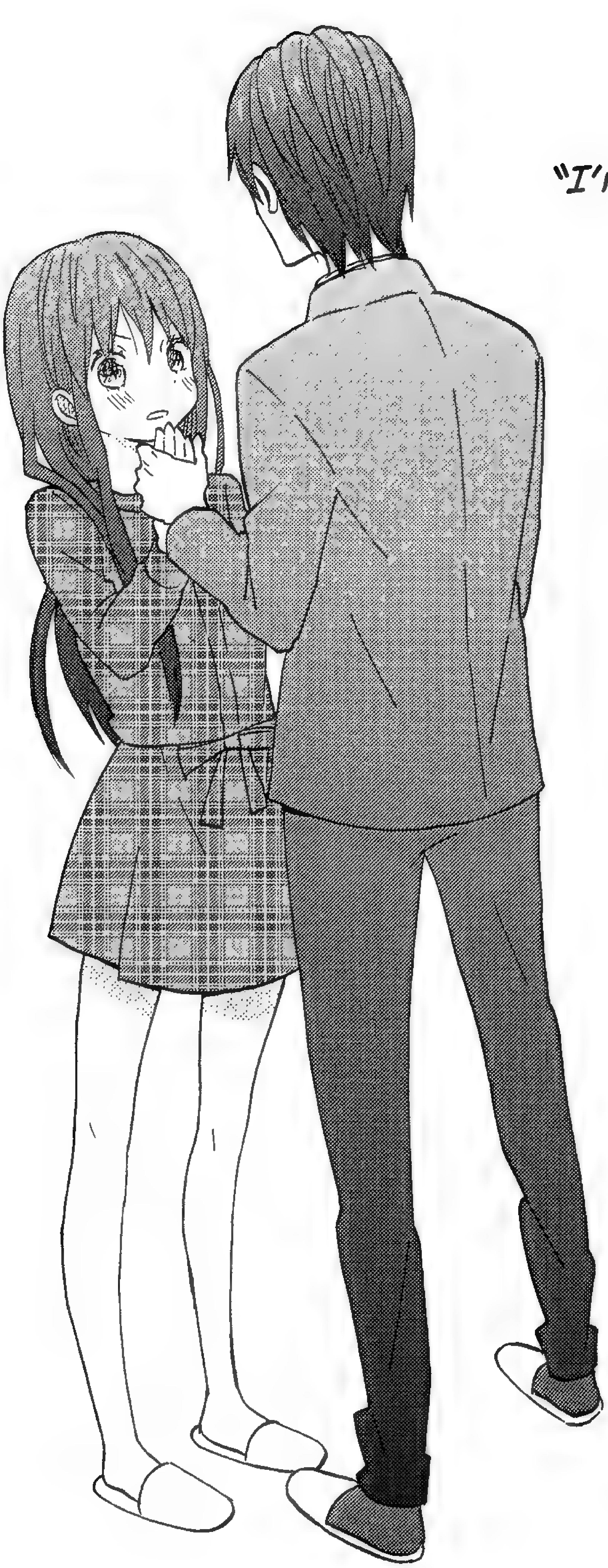
Hiro.
Did something happen?
なで
PAT

Why...
...does she have to...
...be rejected...
...like that?
Her hands...
...are so very...
...warm.

Huh? What?
Hiro, you smell like alcohol.
Yeah, I had a few drinks.
Get away from me, you drunkard!
TUG
Sorry.
Why am I apologizing?
I wanted to hold her.

story 10

The Ideal Date



"I'm sorry."

What was that...
...about?
Hiro seemed strange.
Like... Like...
Like he wanted to...
...hold me.
ギーあ゛お゛お゛お゛ーお゛
AAAAAAAAAACK
PANT ヘッ
PANT ヘッ
PANT ヘッ
PANT ヘッ

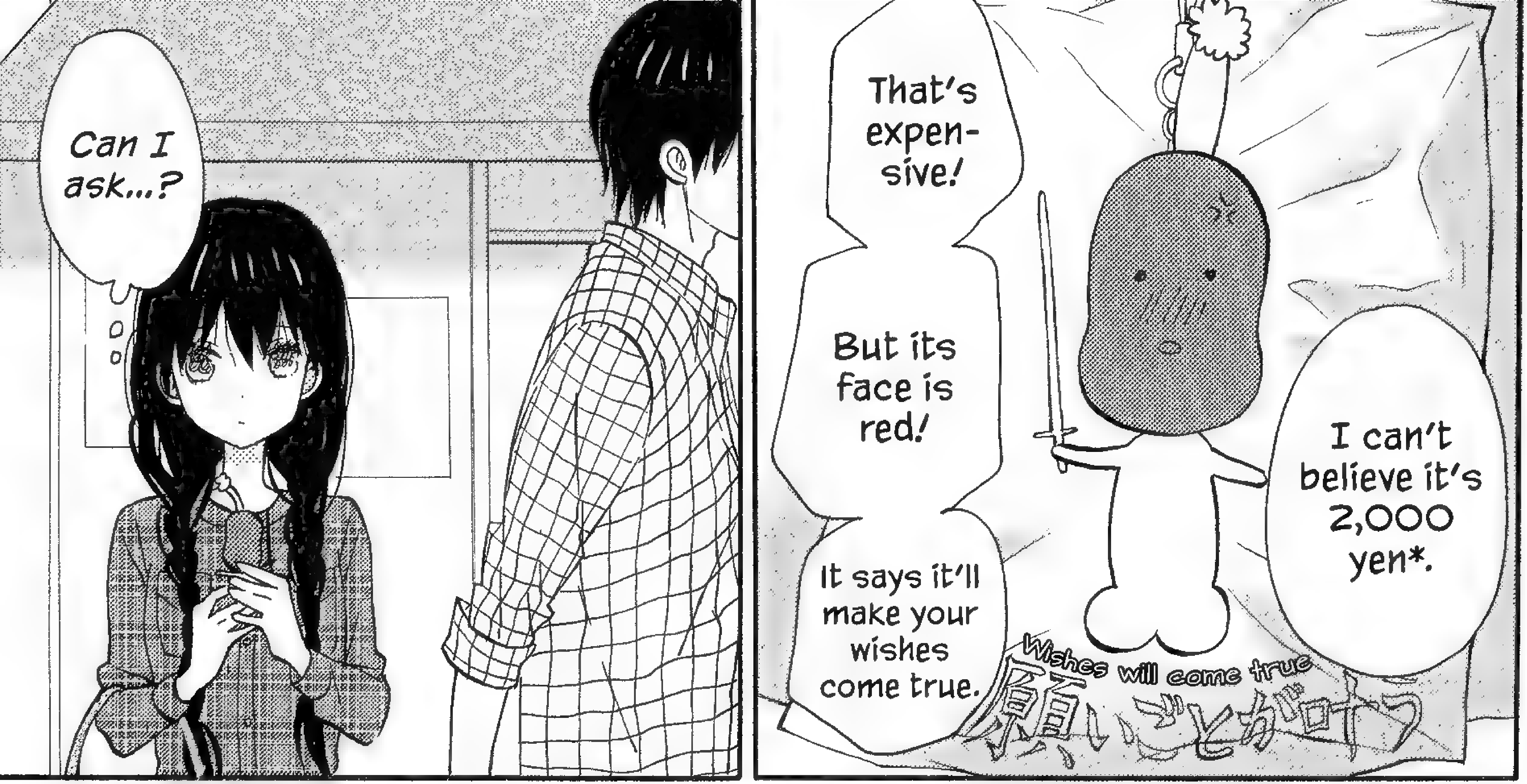
Wakaba-chan, Croquette, what do you think?
PANT PANT PANT
ハァハァハァ
And we have a date tomorrow, Croquette!
WOOF!
わんっ!
Wait. Maybe it's not a date?
?
?
むー GRR
むー GRR
Okay.
わしゃ SHH
わしゃ SHH
Okay. I see.
むー GRR
むー GRR
Are you having a strategy meeting?
!
Oh.
You were watching?!

You're in the living room. What do you expect?
You have an early morning tomorrow.
It's time to go to bed.
O-okay.
G-good... night.
Oh.
Ah...
Um...
I was drunk earlier.
I'm sorry.
Even if he says he's sorry...
Good night.

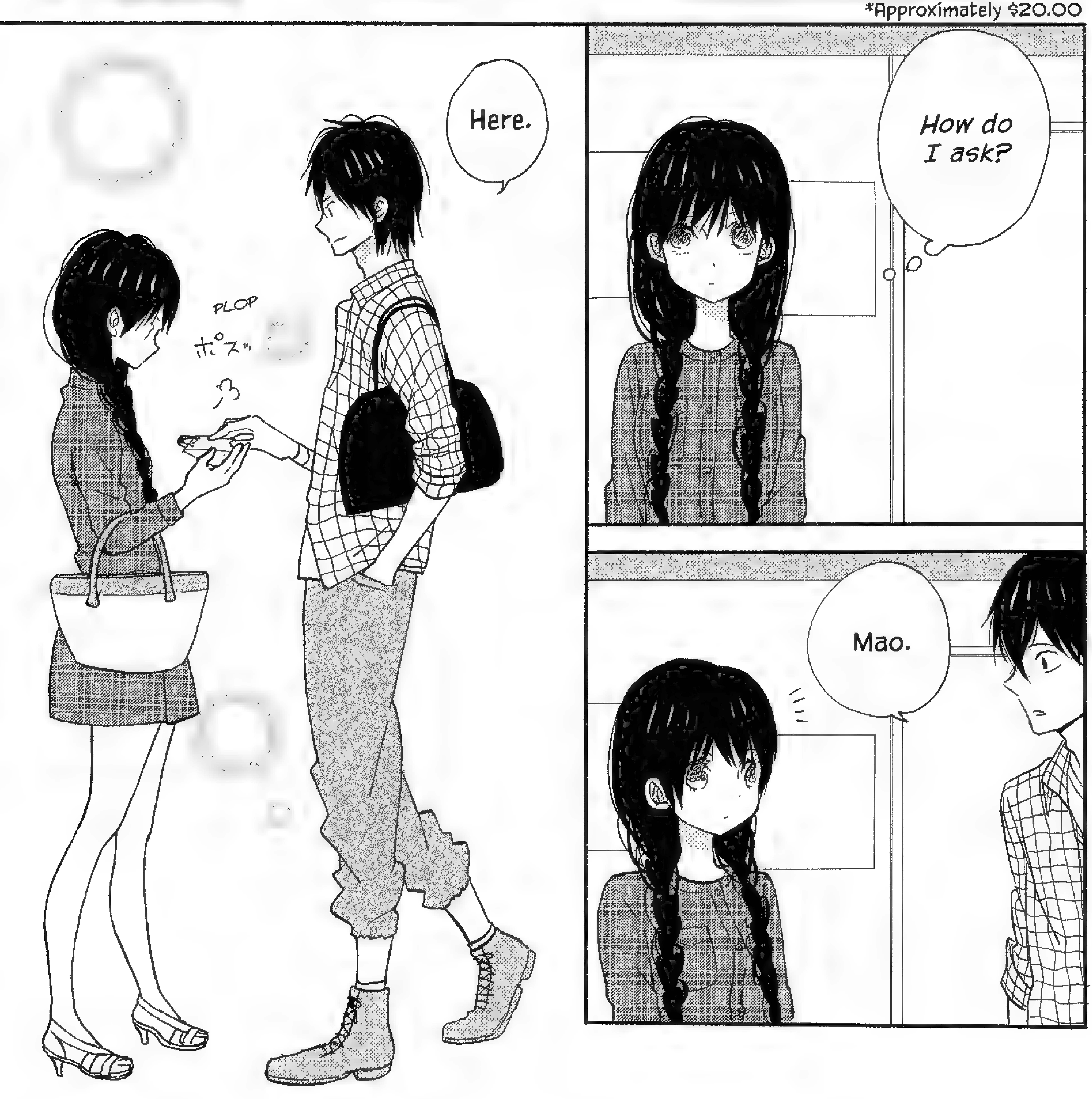
Good night.
...the sensation...
...of his hand...
ゴロ ROLL
ゴロ ROLL
I can't sleep.
...touching my shoulder...
How about you, Hiro?
...won't go away.

HONK HONK
WAH
ふぁ
YAWN
ふぁあ
YAWWWWN
あ
That was a big yawn. Did you get enough sleep last night?
I slept fine.
What about you, Hiro?
I slept fine.
You're obviously lying, Hiro.
Age tells all.
Don't say that like I'm old!
But those dark eye circles...
Is he gonna fight me now?!
かまえっ
COME ON

...
Huh?
Hiro is acting strange, after all.
Oh, a new shop opened up here.
Huh?
What's with that name?
It's Chon-mame!
I made it up.
You can't do that.
It's so ugly.
Ah!


That's expensive!
But its face is red!
It says it'll make your wishes come true.
I can't believe it's 2,000 yen*.
Wishes will come true
願いごとがカナう
Can I ask...?

*Approximately $20.00


How do I ask?
Mao.
Here.
PLOP
ポスッ

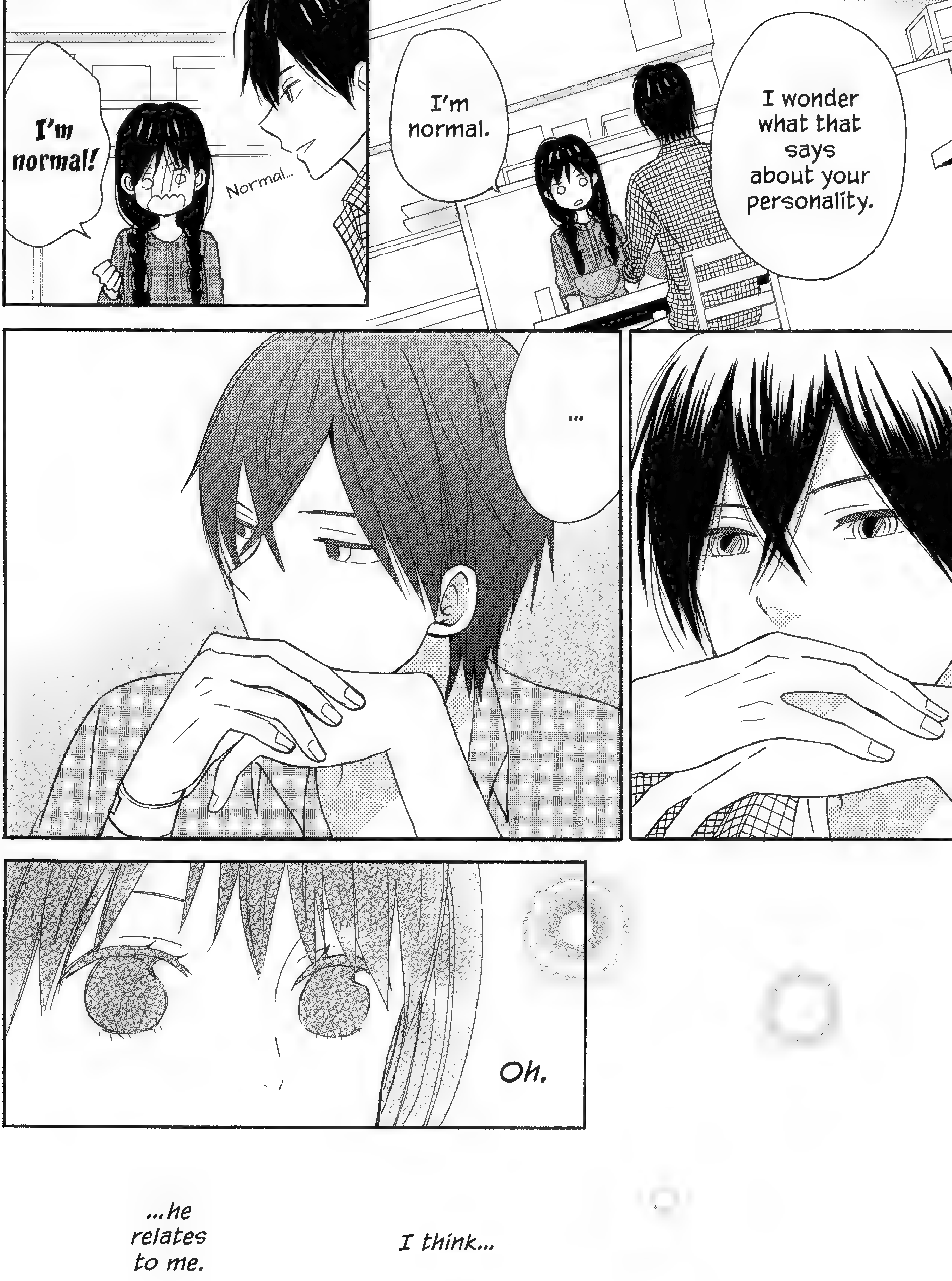
Huh?
W-why did you buy it for me?
GRIND
GRIND
GRIND
GRIND
ギリギリギリ
Just be happy.
Or do you not want it?
I want it!
Just be happy?
But...
...it really, really...
...feels like...
...a date?

Ready for lunch?
What do you want?
Huh? Any... anything is fine!
What do I do? Everything makes it feel like a date!
Though I've never been on a date.
That's the worst answer you could give me.
What should we eat?
Hiro probably...
...doesn't even realize it.
...
I want gyudon*.
Gyu-don?!
What? That's not good?

*Rice topped with beef

牛丼
GYUDON
299
Oh, there's another female customer.
So, what are you getting?
I want to open this...
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
ガサガサ
She looks like an elementary-school student.
ガサッ
RUSTLE
It's...
Ah.
SMIRK
SMIRK
にやにやにや
SMIRK
It's not cute!
What's with that attitude?
What should I do?
You say it's not cute, but you're still gonna use it?
I'll strap it onto something even if it's not cute.

How...
...do I stop this...
...feeling of happiness?
Hurry up and eat.
The movie is starting soon.
もぐもぐ
MUNCH MUNCH
Mao, what do you like so much about period dramas?
はふ
GOBBLE
My dad liked them, so we watched them together.
はふ
GOBBLE
I see.
I was hoping it would give me something to talk about with my dad, but I ended up really liking them.


I wonder what that says about your personality.
I'm normal.
Normal...
I'm normal!
...
Oh.
I think...
...he relates to me.

Not just now.
All this time.
That's why he invited me to live with him.
That's why he's been so nice.
Today...
...really...
...isn't a date at all.
CHATTER
ザワ
CHATTER
ザワ
FOOD&DRI

There are a lot of people.
Is history in the making with historical dramas?
History's in the making with historical dramas!
Don't take that so seriously.
It was just a joke.
History's in the making with historical dramas!
I'll go buy us some drinks.
Mao, what do you want to drink?
Oolong tea.
Watch our stuff.
Okay.
ざわ
CHATTER
ざわ
CHATTER
どん
BAM
ちゃりん
JINGLE
ちゃりん
JINGLE
Excuse me.
Me, too.

!!
?
This is the guy...that was walking with Mao, isn't it?
What a coincidence.
"There's a movie that I want to see."
"I'll go by myself."
Or maybe it isn't a coincidence?
Is this the guy that confessed his feelings to Mao?

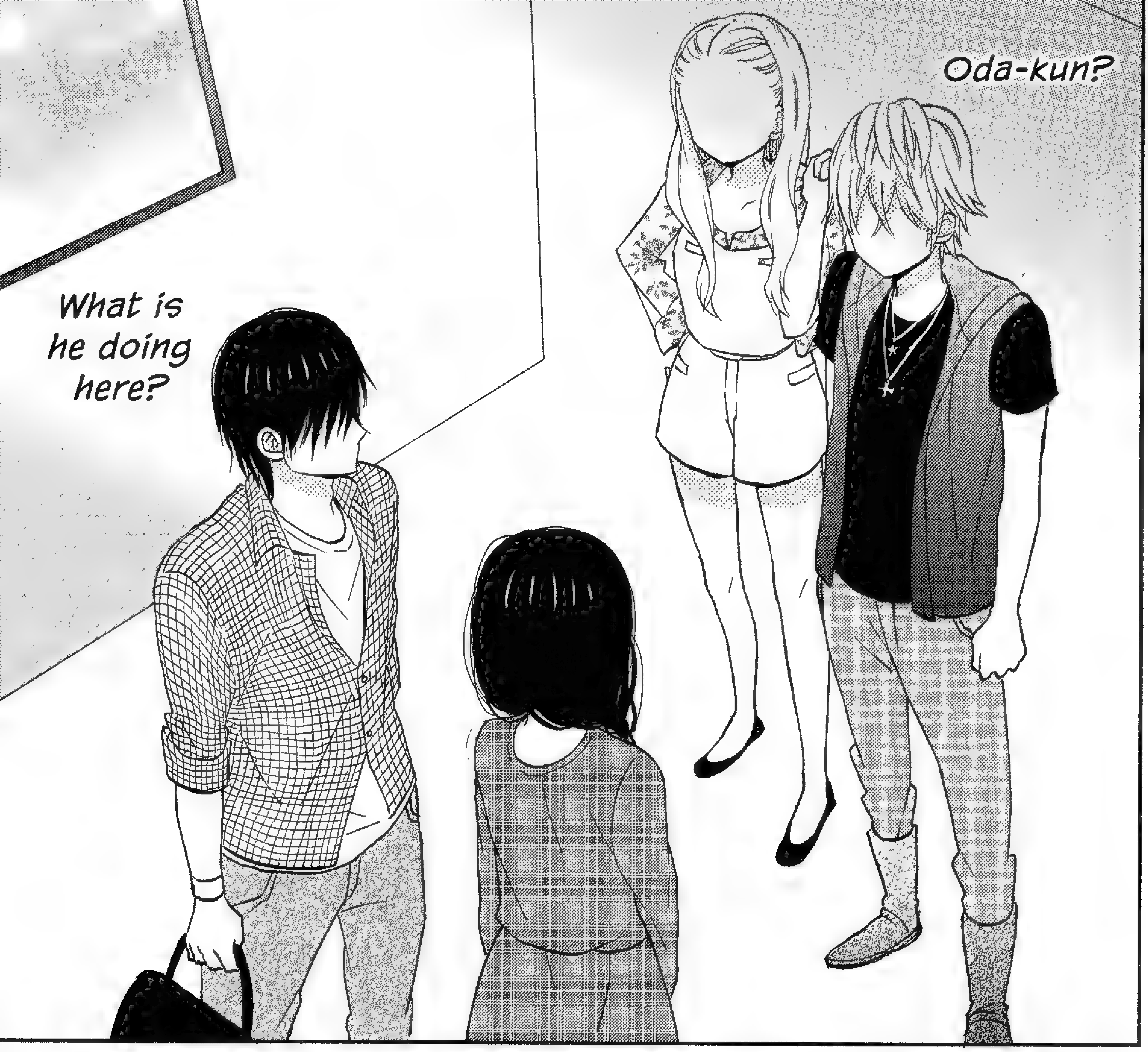
What's wrong?
Oh, it's fine now.
A girl?
Should I tell Mao about this?
I don't know.
I'm sure it wouldn't be a good thing to be seen with Mao.
We should avoid them.
Pardon me... I must leave.

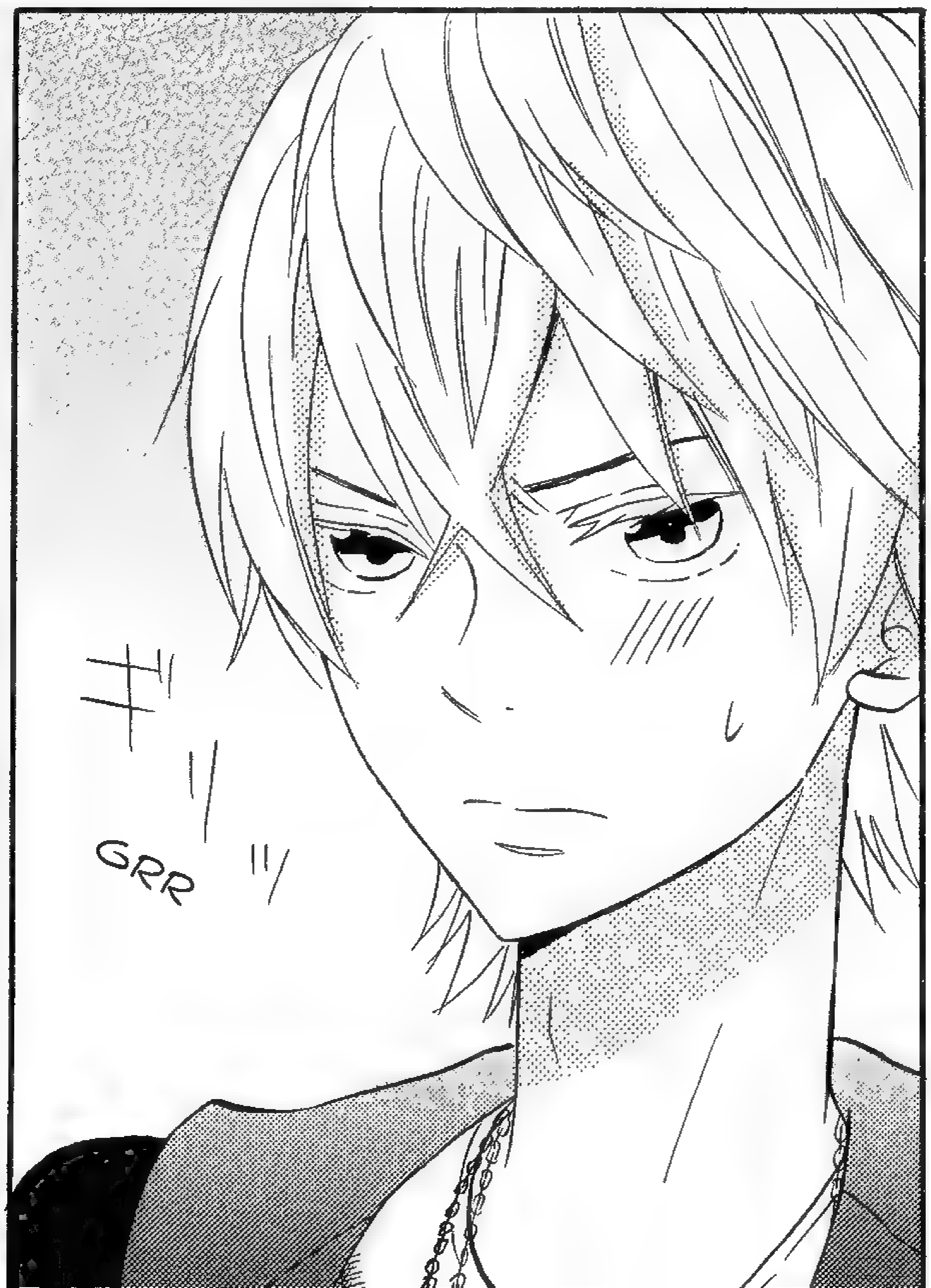
YAWN
ふぁ
Sleepy...
I'm sleepy...
It's not that interesting.
Come this way!
I can't... resist...
I feel bad for Hiro.
チラ
BLINK
What?! He's crying!
CHATTER
ざわ
ざわ
CHATTER
That was good.
Let's go.
What did you think, Mao?
No hesitation.
The fight scenes sucked.
That doesn't sound like a high-school girl!

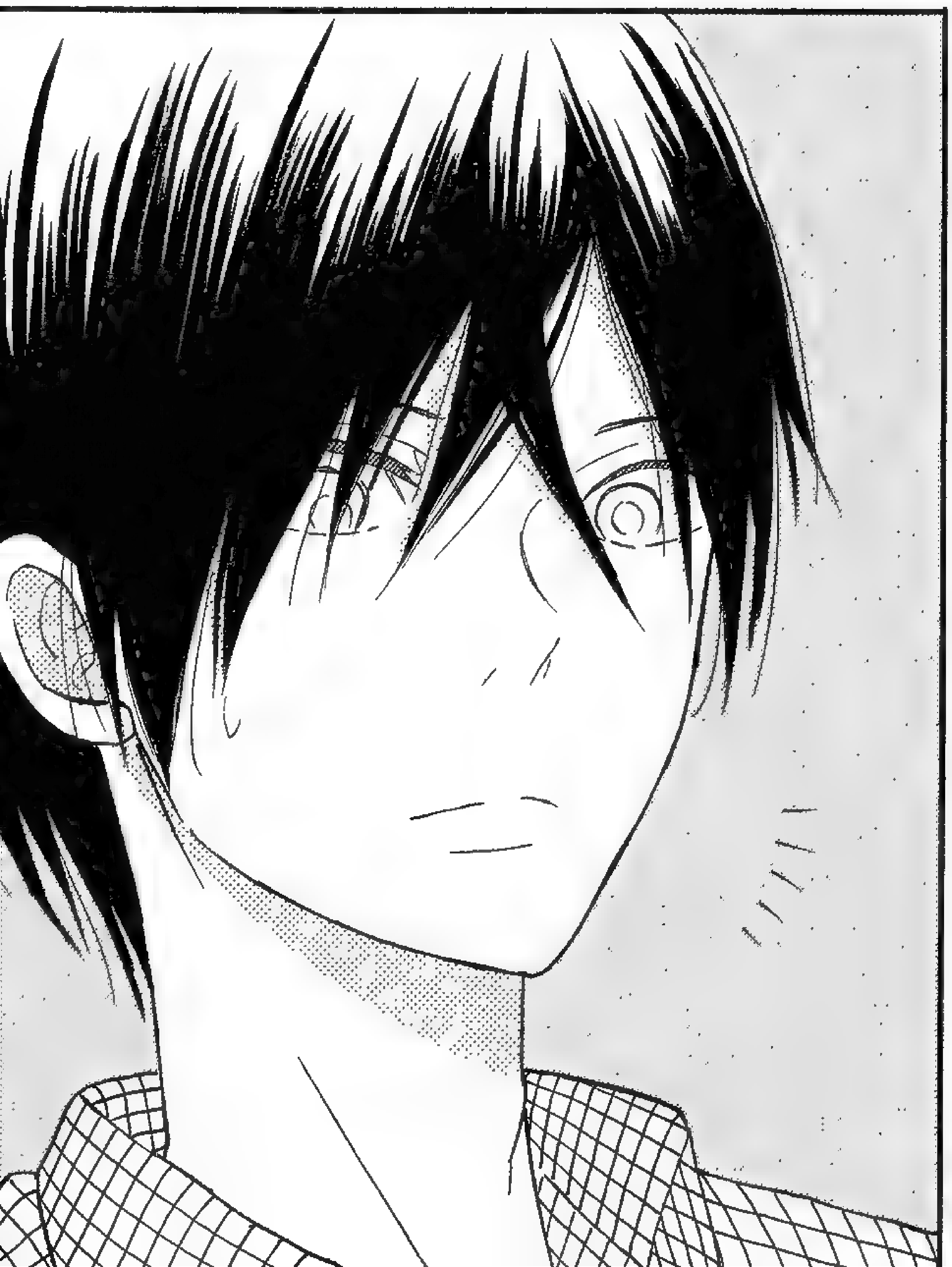
Mao, hurry!
Let's get out of here quick.
ざわ
CHATTER
ざわ
CHATTER
What about the pamphlets?
It's fine. Let's just go.
ぐい
GRAB
!

Hiro...
...casually holds my hand, but...
...would he do that with just anyone?
Motomiya!

ぱっ
FWIP
Huh?


Oda-kun?
What is he doing here?


ギ
GRR



GRR GRR
ギリギリ
You're "Mao-chan"?!
GRR
ギリ
GRR
ギリ
Huh?
I knew it!
Oh, this is my sis.
PUNCH
ドゴォッ
Ouch.
Not your "sis." Introduce me properly!
This is my sister...
Nice to meet you. I'm his sister.
Nice to meet you.
She's scary.
Woah.

I really wanted to see this movie.
And he happened to get tickets...
So, you know.
Yeah.
...
That's a coincidence.
I really wanted to see this movie, too.
But I was embarrassed to go by myself...
I mean, it's a love story.
...so I got Mao to accompany me.
We're childhood friends, almost like siblings.
営業用
Sales rep
I assumed you were her boyfriend.
And I assumed you were his girlfriend.
...
...
HA は HA は
HA は HA は HA は HA は HA は
は

Huh?
Hey, we'll be right back.
So wait here!
Huh? Where are you going?
We're getting juice! Okay?!
Huh?
She's a bit forceful.
...
...
I...I'm sorry.

I said I wouldn't go with you...
!!
Don't apologize, it'll just make me feel miserable.
You wouldn't go with me because you don't want to date me, right?
And that guy...
He's the one you have a crush on, right?
What?
Oh... I'm right.

But Hiro doesn't know that I like him.
GRR
Don't say his name.
I told him how I felt once...
...and made it look like a joke.
Then why did you say he rejected you?
Sounds compli-cated.
Yeah.
...
You're always looking down... Or so it seems.

Ever since first year started.
Even when I tried to make conversation, you ignored me.
You never even smiled.
Just once, you had a different expression on your face.
?
It's a secret.
I have no intention of helping you with him.
But I can cheer you up, at least.

On the other hand, my sister isn't one to stop herself.
When she's confused and doesn't know what to do...
...she says to just think about the ideal scenario.
She says things will automatically work out that way.
Motomiya, what would be the ideal scenario for you?
The ideal...
...scenario...
We're back!

What were you guys doing?
I told you we were buying juice.
Yeah... but...
Were you able to talk?
Yeah.
Croquette is waiting. Ready to go home?
Argh!
Argh!
Yeah.

The ideal scenario...
If I think about it...
...there'd be no pity...
...and no guilt.
I'd be able to be straightforward with Hiro.

I wouldn't run away.
I'd confront my dad and return home.
We're home.
We're home, Cro-cro!
わん WOOF
わん WOOF
わん WOOF
Oh, Hiro, I'll make dinner tonight!
What? Please don't!

Don't try to be nice! It's fine!
I'm not being nice!
Don't make strange efforts for me.
But...
I want to contribute, too.
Then act like a high-school girl.
What's that supposed to mean?
Nothing.
It's just that, when I saw you with that guy, I realized you're a high-school girl.
I am a high-school girl...
Oh, by the way...
That reminds me.

He's the guy who confessed his feelings to you, right?
How did you know?!
I knew it.
Why does everyone guess it right away?
It's written on your face.
He got the wrong idea about me, right?
Did you correct him?
Yeah, I did.
He wasn't wrong.

His sister has a very strong personality.
Yeah, oh...
Did you really go buy juice?
His sister was so thoughtful.
And he seems like a nice guy, too.
We really did buy juice.
Which one should we buy? Eeny, meeny, miny, moe...
I was pretty surprised.
You... Mao.
...shouldn't worry about me.
What are you talking about?
Hiro?

...
zzz
His battery died.
That's right, he didn't get much sleep last night.
Good night.
Thank you for today.
If I think about what I'd wish for...
I want to stay by his side.
...I wish I could tell Hiro how I really feel.

I can't stay here.
I don't want to lie...
...about my feelings.

story 11

A Heart-to-Heart

You're so cute, Mao.
Wh...what did you just say?!
I said you're cute.
Don't say it twice!
I love you, Mao.

Mao...
Marry me.
What?!
SMACK
Don't be shy.
This house will be yours, as well.
I want to be with you forever.
I'm so happy.
ぎゅう
SQUEEZE

Mao?
What are you doing...?
She's asleep.
GROAN
GROAN
GROAN
ばりっ
LIFT
ばっ
DASH
すやぁ
SNORE
Victory is mine.
Guess I'll take a bath.

Hiro! You jerk! Why didn't you wake me up?
うぐ
URK
VRR
ブォー
Why? 'Cause you were sound asleep. And besides, we take turns bathing.
And you go in second, remember?
WHOOSH
ブォー
It'll be your fault if I'm late!
SHHHHH
サー
I have to hurry.
It feels like I had a nice dream...
I can't seem to remember it, though.

A dream about my dad?
No, I don't think so.
...
What if...
BLUB ブク
BLUB ブク
...my dad...
...refuses to talk to me?
What will I do?
But I have to talk to him.
Nothing will happen if I don't talk to him.
I have to tell Hiro, too...
...that I want to talk to my dad.

♪
♪
Hiro.
Hurry up and eat.
Um...
?
A- actually, never mind.
CLAP
パッ
Thanks for the food!
...
...

By the way, I had a dream while I was snoozing on the couch.
I think it was a good dream.
Don't fall asleep at school.
So, what did you dream about?
I don't remember.
Oh!
HAZY
もや
Mao, I love you.
...
...
What's wrong?!
Was it a nightmare?!
キーンコーンカーン
DING
DONG
DANG

I couldn't tell Hiro, after all.
That dream was embarrassing.
Way too crazy.
Good morning, Motomiya.
Urk... Good morning.
"Urk"? What's that about?
Nothing. Just "urk."
SIGH
CLATTER
...
That guy I met yesterday...
He's the guy you and Chihiro have a crush on, right?
What?! You mean Chi-chan?
For two friends to fall for the same guy, that's harsh.

Good morning!
You've got things all wrong...
Good morning, Chi-chan.
Good morning, Chihiro.
I wasn't talking to you.
I wasn't talking to you, either!
You were, actually.
Right!
Let's go, Mao.
I want to talk with you.
H-hey!
Chi-chan.

It's been a while...
...since we talked.
It seems Oda-kun thinks you're my only friend, Chi-chan.
What's with that? I'll set him straight next time.
But he's practically right.
...
Mao, you hold back too much.
Actually, Chi-chan...

Do you like...
Oda-kun?
What?
Yeah, I do.
So what?
Are you gonna keep holding back?
I'm not holding back.
Yes, you are.

I mean, aren't you hiding something from me, Mao?
I want...
...to tell her...
...about Hiro.
Oda-kun likes you, Mao.

...
I...
I...
...really...
...have to talk to you...
...about...
...so many things.
I first met Chi-chan...
...in middle school.

All I ever watched were period dramas.
I didn't know anything about regular TV shows or comedies.
The charms that brought other girls together...
"Oh, that's so cute."
"Yeah, so cute!"
Cutesy objects didn't pull at my heartstrings and made it hard for me to join in.
There was a boy who spoke to me occasionally.
He used to call me a wide-eyed monster in elementary school, then suddenly said he liked me.
I was confused.
Chi-chan had lots of friends.
It seemed like she was never alone.
Then Chi-chan's seat was changed, and she sat at the desk in front of mine.
Motomiya-san.
SPIN

Wow! What an unusual pencil case...
Where did you buy it?
The cigarette shop.
The cigarette shop?!
By the way...
SPIN
You know...
SPIN
Chi-chan whispered to me throughout class.
Talking without the teacher noticing...
...was fun.
Mao!
SPIN
It's the first time anyone's called me by my first name...
...other than my mom and dad or the Nakamuras.
?
That was a big deal for me.
Embarrassing.

Look!
I got a matching one!
Friendship is...
It's cute.
...embarrassing.
I heard that Motomiya-san rejects boys by acting confused.
So scary!
You've got it wrong.
That boy used to tease Mao in elementary school.
Really?
Aaaah.
What's wrong?

You're so easy to misunderstand. It makes things difficult.
Hey, Chi-chan.
If that's the reason I don't have many friends...
...and that you ended up talking to me...
...then I'm happier this way.
I felt a little lonely at home, but...
...at school, I had Chi-chan.
That made me truly happy.

I-it's embarrassing, but...
...I couldn't get along with my new step-family.
So, I'm living with a childhood friend now.
He's a lot older than me, but I've fallen for him.
I asked Oda-kun for advice, and he ended up telling me that he likes me.
If you like him, Chi-chan...
...I thought it would hurt you...
...so I couldn't tell you.
...
About your home situation, too?
I knew it would just make you worry.

So make me worry!
You idiot!
But you talked to Oda-kun...
...about so many things.
...
Chi-chan.
ぎゅっ SQUEEZE
I'm sorry.
It'll make you worry a lot...
...but I'll tell you everything.

After that...
...I told Chi-chan everything...
...I had bottled up.
About Hiro...
About Radical-san...
About my stepsister...
About my dad...
About my stepmom...
I see.
Your dad didn't come in to see you...
Hey, Mao...
Whether you stay at Hiro's place or not, I think it's a good idea to talk to your dad.
If you face him, I think you'll be able to deal with your feelings.

I was totally convinced that we liked the same person.
And that dummy Oda-kun totally misunderstood and made things worse.
But he was trying to be thoughtful in his own way.
Of course, if you did like Oda-kun and told me about it...
...I would support you.
So if you do end up falling for him, don't hold back.
That would never happen...!
Rest assured!
Whoa, that's pretty mean.

Thank you, Chi-chan.
I'm glad we talked.
Yeah.
When she said that...
...she smiled like she did in middle school.
Thank you, Chi-chan.
I'm glad we're friends.

Hiro, I want to talk with my dad.
Good luck.
Good luck, Mao.
Yeah.

I'll go with you.
What?! It's fine! What good will it do if you come?
I'm going.
Actually...
...that makes me really happy.
Don't worry, I'll stay hidden. I won't let your dad see me.
ボスッ
SMOOSH
Then what are you coming for?!
Even if you try your hardest, you might lose your cool. If you do, I'll be there for you.
...

My dad promised to meet me.
I waited and waited, but he didn't come...
I was sure he wouldn't show up at all...
そわ そわ
FIDGET
FIDGET
It's gonna be okay.
It's gonna be okay.
カチ カチ
TAP TAP
Please make my wish come true.
My dad came.
When he saw me after so long, he smiled.
It's been a while, but I'll update my blog.
Welcome.
Hey, Mao.

When my dad saw me...
BA-DUMP
...after so long...
...he didn't smile.
I have to tell him.
I have to tell him.
I have to tell him...
...that I want to go back home.

Mao.
There's no need to worry about me.
What?
How is it going over there? You're not causing Hiro-kun too much trouble?
Unlike me, Hiro-kun is a good man.
You must be happy.
Dad, I...
Since you insisted on seeing me...
No...
That's not it.
Ah...

I brought payment for next month's room and board.
It's better if you give it to him yourself, right?
My dad...
...never...
...even considered...

...that I might come home?
So?
What is it you wanted to talk about?
Do you...
...hate me?
Huh?
You're the one who left, right?

You and your mom, both of you left me.
...
It's about time you get a job and pay your own way.
CLATTER
ガタッ
Thank you...
...for coming today.
Okay.

Urk...
Oh?
Oh, it's you, Hiro-kun.
I didn't know you were here.
Here's the money.
Mao forgot to take it with her.
No, thanks.
What?
I always thought Mao was running away from you.

But now it looks like you're the one running away from Mao.
Huh?
Excuse me.

TMP
サク
Hiro?
Did you hear him?
I'll get a job starting next month and pay my own way.
I'm sorry.
I'll be remaining in your care.
I'll save my money to move out eventually.

I don't need money.
Let's go home, Mao.
Don't take pity on me!
You always...
...al-ways...
...always...
...do that...
Hiro!
Mao.

Mao, listen to me!
I want you to stay with me.

Let's go home together.
I want us to be together.

It feels like...
...he's saying he loves me.
Without realizing it...
...I stopped crying...
...and remembered my dream.

story 11

Bonds

It feels like...
...he's saying he loves me.
...
SQUEEZE
ぎゅう…

I have to stop.
I have to let go.
Gotta let go.
...
Hi-
Hiro...
I can't breathe.

SQUEEE
ぎゅーーう
Okay.
I can't breathe!
EEEZ
...
Sorry.
You're too close!

...
ぐ"
ぐ"
PINCH
っ
What are you doing?
ぐに
PULL
ぐに
PULL
ぐに
PULL
I'm pinching your cheeks.
I know that!
ふ
SIGH
Let's go home.
Okay.

That's right.
Her old man entrusted me with her.
I can't just lay my hands on her.
If I do that, I'll be giving him what he wants.
Calm down. Calm down.
...
What's more, I...
...always held my sister's hand without hesitation.

I've been doing the same thing with Mao...
I wonder how she feels about it.
It's like I'm suddenly conscious of it.
I don't know when would be a good time to let go.
Hiro... I know you said I can stay with you, but...
I'm gonna get a part-time job.
I want to contribute, too.
The way it is now, I'm completely indebted to you.
Everything I use is yours.

Taking out the trash, doing laundry, cleaning...
I know I suck at it, but I used to do it at home.
Also, I want to pull my weight around the house, too.
That's what it means to live together, after all.
You did all that, and that's how he treats you?
...
...
That's right, no one was ever there to teach her how...
I don't know the best way to go about doing things.

Mao is pretty clumsy.
She probably couldn't get much done on her own.
All right! I'll teach you how to do household chores.
Are you my mom?
Mom?
Hiro, you act like a mom.
Like, holding my hand, too.
Sorry. Does it bother you?
Of course it does! It's gross!
What? But you're not letting go!

It's fine.
I'll hold your hand.
SQUEEZE
ギュ
Okay.
VWIP
せっ
VWIP
せっ
VWIP
せっ
I... did it!
You really did improve a lot.
It really was because no one ever taught her.

TA-DA
Huh?
Did...you make this, Mao?
Yeah.
Chi-chan taught me.
You really can do it if you put your mind to it.
Guess I wasn't a good teacher.
ず SIP
ず SIP
I'm impressed that you made miso soup.
Aaaaaaargh!

What did you put in here?!
I put secret ingredients in yours. Yogurt, jam, and gum.
ドヤ
PROUD
What?!
Chi-chan said it would taste good.
I told her you like sweets.
ピュアー
WHOOSH
It's not even a prank...!
urk.
So you told Chi-chan about me?
Yes.
I told her.
How much did she tell her?
Sweet.
ずっ
SIP
I hope she doesn't get the wrong idea about Mao.
Oh...
I'll be eating dinner at Chi-chan's house tonight.

That's unusual for you.
Chi-chan is teaching me how to cook.
I want to practice on you before Daiki and Hina-chan return.
What?!
It's not practice if I'm eating it for real!
I want to be able to share the workload with you soon.
...
Here.
SLIP
?
What is this?
A list of household chores.
You want to do them, right?
I...
I don't not want to!
Sounds like you don't.

My days are Tuesday and Wednesday?
Yes.
I'll do my best...on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.
It feels like I just got married to an untrained wife.
はっ
BOOM
I would apologize for my incompetence, but...
...but a high-school wife is totally gross! Don't have weird fantasies!
No, that's not what I meant...
Sorry!

Nakamura! Are you free today?
Huh?
Yeah, sure.
My sister isn't home tonight.
パタ…
SLAM
Let's go out for a drink.
Oh, okay.
Let's go with Sugimoto-san!
Like we promised before, right?
Oh, that's right.
Is that why you styled your hair differently?
Heh heh heh.
Sugimoto-san!

Drinks with Sugimoto-san... And she might even be "Solami-san."
Maybe I'll ask her while we're drinking.
Um... Please... let's have a good time.
Where should we go?
What do you feel like eating, Sugimoto-san?
U-um...
ブー BZZ
ブー BZZ
Hello?
I like everything.
Do you like alcohol?
What?!
I love it!
Sake, huh?
I love Japanese sake.
Want to eat fish, then?

My mom said she just left my dad.
She's at my house now and wants me to go home.
Huh?
Are you serious?
I'm serious.
urk, urk, urk.
I have to go home.
Don't worry about me, and go on, just the two of you.
Let's all go drinking again another day, okay?
ぐず
SOB
Okay.
Have fun, you two!
...
...

It's kind of awkward with just me, huh?
It isn't awkward!
It's... not...?
All right, then, let's go.
じ— STAAARE
...
じ— STAAAARE

You want to go in here?
Yes, but are you sure?!
Sure.
What do you want to drink, Sugimoto-san?
And order anything you want to eat.
FIDGET
FIDGET
FIDGET
I'll have some *houyou* sake...
Cold.
Fried beef tongue, seared beef tongue, and stewed beef tongue.
...
You must really like beef tongue.
There are some strange items on the menu.
I don't necessarily like beef tongue!
What is she saying?

Oh... Um... Do you mind if I use my phone?
ドキ BA-DUMP
ドキ BA-DUMP
ドキ BA-DUMP
Go ahead. Go ahead.
What should I do...? I'm so nervous.
I'm...out... with...
Kuukai-san... I'll do my best.
ドキ BA-DUMP
ドキ BA-DUMP
Excuse me, here you go!
Oh, it's a warlord.
You two sure make a lovely couple.
Are you on a date?
Unfortunately... we're just coworkers.
Yes, just co-workers!
My bad!
...

That's right.
I was surprised when he said "date."
This is normal.
In all honesty, if a woman my age were to hear that I was dating a high-school girl, what would she do?
Even if I'm okay with it, what would they think?
I would be enraged if Hina showed up on the arm of a guy my age.
Why am I thinking about dating at all?
Who?
I must be drunk.
I think Mao would like this place.
By the way, is your sister okay with you going out?
Yeah, she's at a friend's house.

Is that so? That's nice.
Is she much younger?
Um... She's in her third year of middle school. My parents really wanted a girl.
Third year! That's a big gap! Does she look like you?
Oh... I don't know.
I...
I want to see her.
Hold on. I think I have a photo.
Here!
Wow!
She doesn't really look like you.
Who's the guy in the back?
My brother.

What is he eating?
はっ
AH!
ばっ
BOOM
MOS Burger?
My brother might come home during summer break.
It'll be a full house, then.
Yeah.
Hina.
I wonder what's going on with her.
...
...

Are you still writing that novel?
Whaaat?!
Oh... Um...
Wha... Whaaat?!
I heard a rumor...
A rumor?!
Please don't ask me too much about it...
There's no need to be embarrassed...
But... But...! It's really not a big deal!
It's embarrassing.
Not a big deal? I think that's up to the readers to decide.

It must cheer some people up when they read it.
...
Yeah...
INCOMING MAIL
1/2500
From
RADICAL-SAN
Subject

I'm having dinner with my crush.♡

We're at a civil-war-era-themed restaurant.

\(^o^)/

Grrrrrrrr!
...
SHAKE SHAKE SHAKE
ぶるぶるぶる
Did Hiro tell you he was going out to eat with a coworker?
I can't imagine that you'd find out he's cheating like this...
Cheating? But we're not dating.
ゴ RUMBLE
ゴ RUMBLE
ゴ RUMBLE
ゴ RUMBLE
ゴ RUMBLE
And I'd have no right to ask, anyway.
But he said he wanted you to be with him.
Don't remind me, Chi-chan.
So embarrassing.
He said he wanted to be with you, and he said you reminded him of a new wife.
Stop it.
バーーン！
BZZ
You got another text, Mao!

INCOMING MAIL 1/2500

From RADICAL-SAN

Subject

We exchanged phone numbers. ><

He said we'll go out again, with all three of us next time (with his friend from work)...

How should I take that?

I'll text you again! Thanks for listening. ><

Why did Hiro-san say that to her?
Ugh... Ugh... They exchanged phone numbers.
Hiro doesn't text much.
That's not the issue!
Will you go ask her about it?
SPLOSH
どばっ
Yeah.
I want to see her.
She's my friend, after all.
Enough!
GOLD
You need to be on high alert, Mao!
High alert?
I mean, you do have your age going against you.
That's right!
And, also...
GOLD

I know it's hard, but I don't think you should keep quiet about Hiro with Radical-san much longer.
Yeah...
I know.
I'm home!

WOOF
わんっ
わんっ
WOOF
Croquette, I'm home!
Is Hiro here?
...
I guess he's not back yet.
キィ
CREAK
But I made cream puffs.
They're pretty heavy... But Chi-chan said it was okay...
とんっ
PLOP
...

I've been on edge since Radical-san sent me those texts.
Are they still drinking?
Or have they gone even further? Maybe...
Maybe Hiro is the type to embrace someone right away. He must be!
ブン
SHAKE
ブン
SHAKE
ブン
SHAKE
Croquette, should I text Hiro?
わんっ
WOOF
Where are you?
What time will you be back?
...

Do you want to close?
Save and close
Delete and close
Return
パタン
CLICK
I'm not his girlfriend, after all.
I'm not family, either.
He's come home from work later than this.
He's even come home in the morning.
If I text him today to ask him...
...he'll think it's strange.

Come home quickly,
Hiro.
SQUEEZE
キューん
Cro-quette...
I know! Let's go greet him.
わんっ
WOOF
Hurry.

Say "I'm home"...
...and show me your face.
コロー
FLOP
コロー
FLOP
わんっ
WOOF
わんっ
WOOF

He's so late.
Maybe I can...
...ask Radical-san?
Like, ask how it went?
If only...
...he would just hurry back!
Mao.

Daiki?!
Welcome home.
What are you doing out here so late?
I'm waiting for Hiro...
What are you doing here, Daiki?

What do you mean? I'm moving back.
It's summer vacation already.
I had no idea.
It's a bit sooner than I had planned. I haven't told Hiro yet.
...
Mao, do you have a crush on my brother?

I knew it.
I'm against it.
To be continued...

EXTRA CHAPTER A Boy in Love

In my house, I'm the only boy out of seven siblings, the other six being girls.
So I've known since I was little...
Girls complain a lot, they're super annoying, and they shave their facial hair.
What are you looking at?
This type of girl is an illusion.
I will serve you.
Oda-kun, you look like a player, but you really understand how girls feel.
As you would expect...
...I was popular with girls.
I like you, Oda-kun.

Regrettably, I rejected them all.
Knowing what girls are really like made it impossible to be anything but friends.
You idiot! It should be charming to you that a girl put effort into her appearance and manner of speech for you.
Really?
Brother, play with me!
乙女コミック
It's just because you've never been in love. Virgin boy!
Being a virgin has nothing to do with it.
Besides, when you love someone, even their bad points are charming.
Is that so?
Girls Comic 乙女コミック
Don't worry! Love will take you by surprise!
You've been reading too many comics.

*Girl's Comic

Good morning.
Good morning, Oda-kun.
Good morning.
Hi.
BAM
Oh, sorry.
...
What's with her? Is she angry?
She's so weird.
Totally.

But I was in the wrong just now.
Oda-kun, you're so nice!
Motomiya-san is always in a bad mood. Don't worry about it.
Always?
Something must be bothering her.
Who knows?
Wait! What's that? Is that a patch on your elbow?
Huh?
BOOM
My sister! My sister definitely did this!
GRRRRR!
Hee!
Heh heh heh heh!
HA HA HA!
No way!

I hate you, Sis...!
They laughed at me!
I bet they're still snickering about it in a corner somewhere.
...
It's Motomiya.
Hey.
Sorry for earlier.
Earlier?
What about?
I hit you.
Accidentally.
I didn't notice.

She is weird!
BAM
...
What the heck?
Oh, no! The patch!
She'll laugh at me!
And then snicker about it, too.
Where did you buy that?

Huh?
I don't know... it's my sister's.
Why am I blushing?
Your sister?
You have such a cool sister.
What is this? What is this?
Just because a girl touched me?
ドキ
BA-DUMP
ドキ
BA-DUMP
ドキ
BA-DUMP
ドキ
BA-DUMP
ド
BA-DUMP
Mao, what are you doing? Let's go.
Chi-chan.
Okay.
...

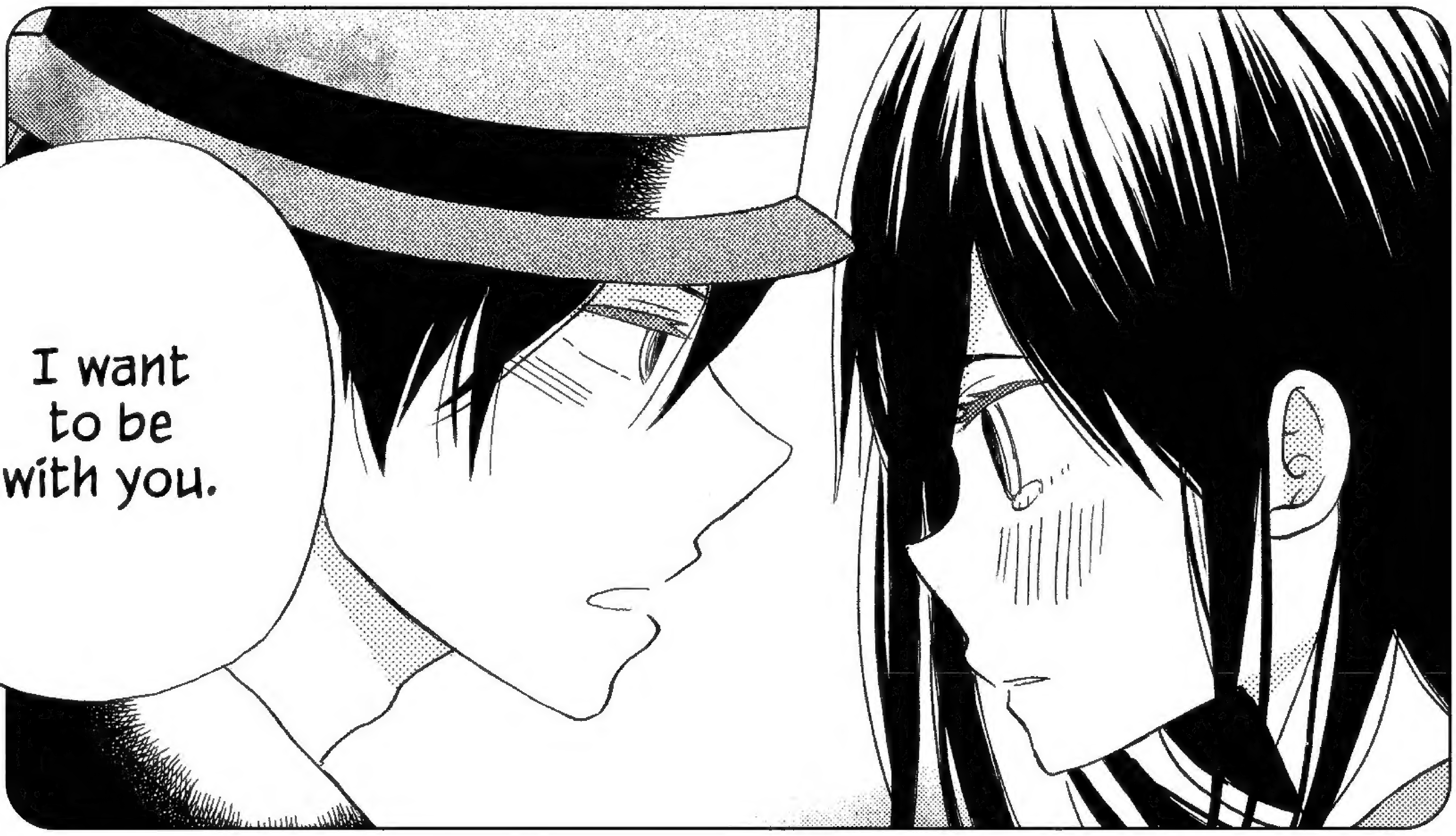
...
Girls complain a lot.
She's always in a bad mood.
They're super annoying.
But...
"Love will take you by surprise!"
But...
I get it.
She was right.

End of extra chapter

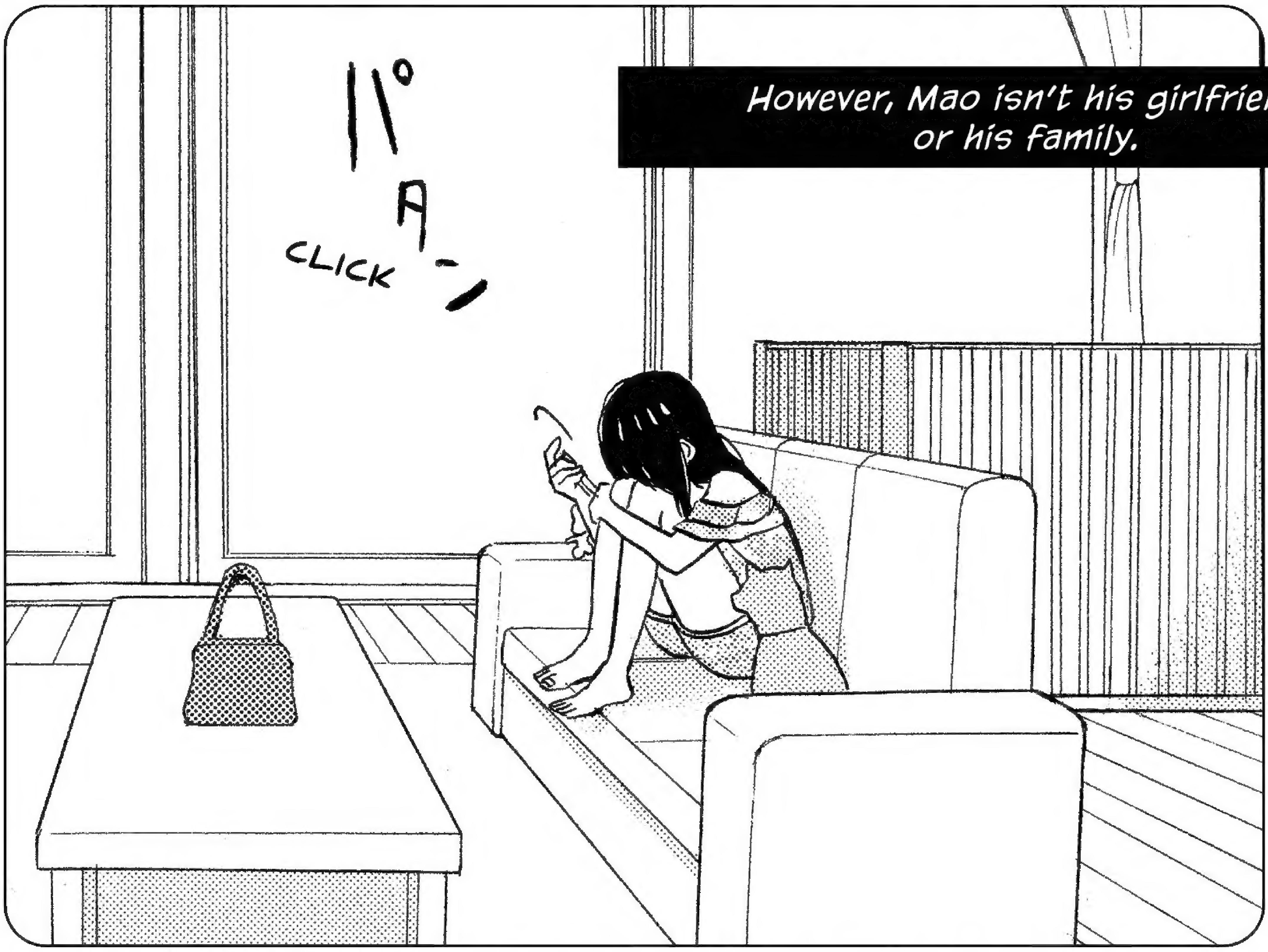
Next volume Announcement

All right!

Does Hiro feel the same way...?


I want to be with you.

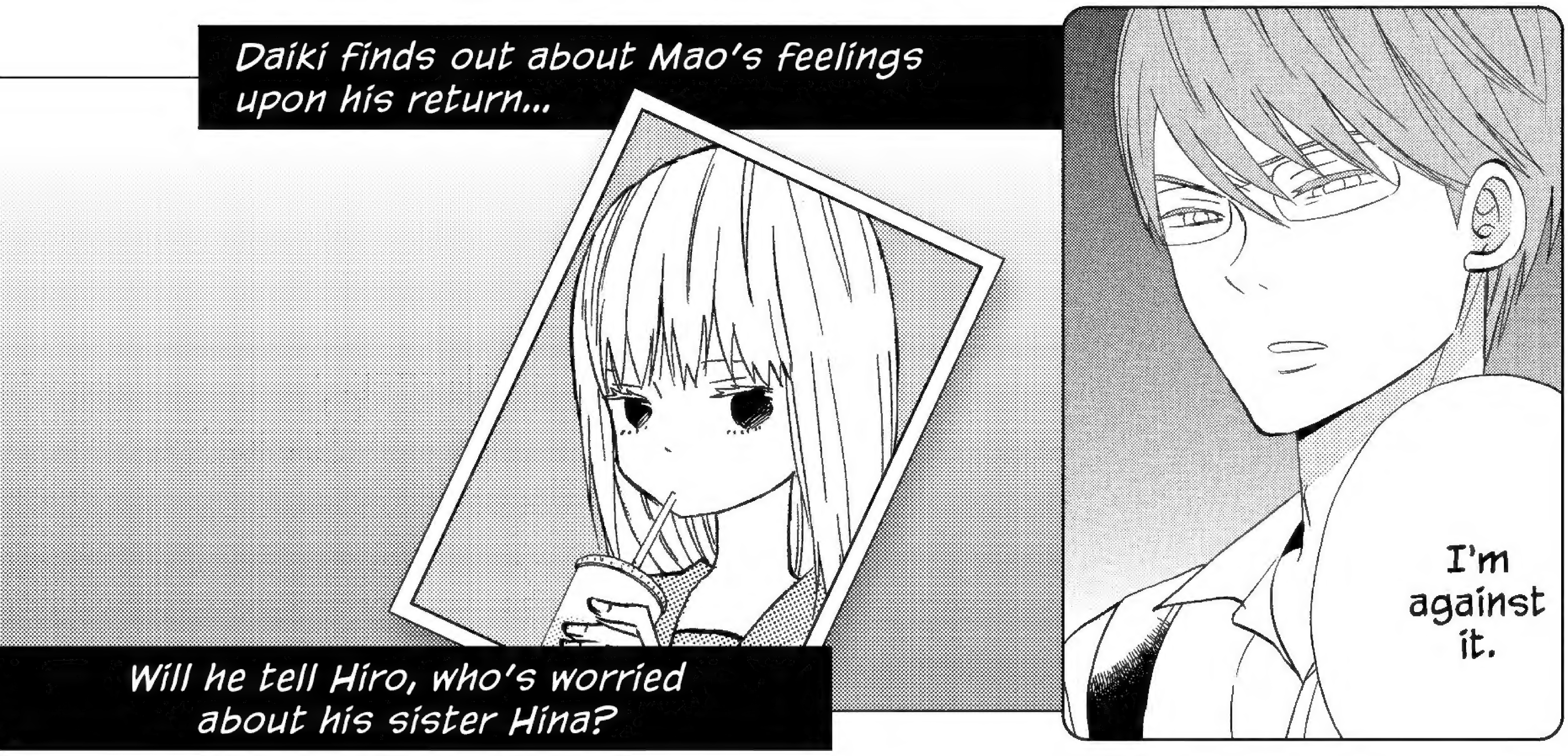
Mao can't stop thinking about the words Hiro unexpectedly uttered.



However, Mao isn't his girlfriend or his family.

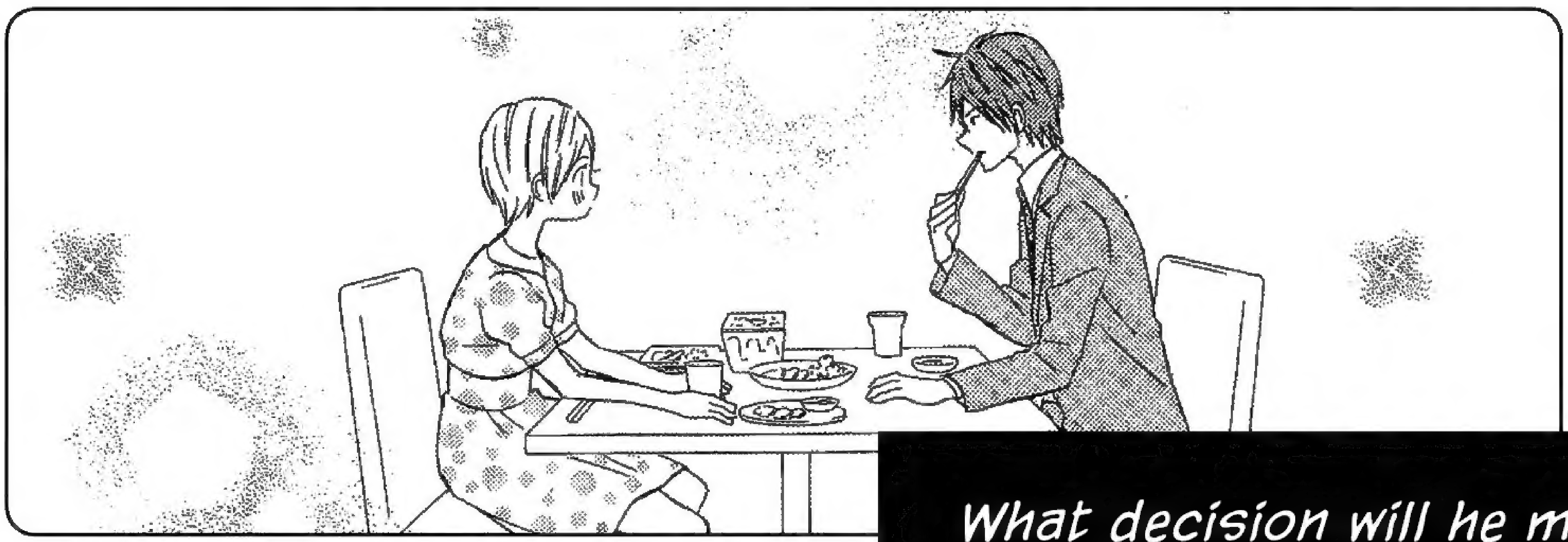
The more she likes him, the more painful it is.

Daiki finds out about Mao's feelings upon his return...


I'm against it.

Will he tell Hiro, who's worried about his sister Hina?

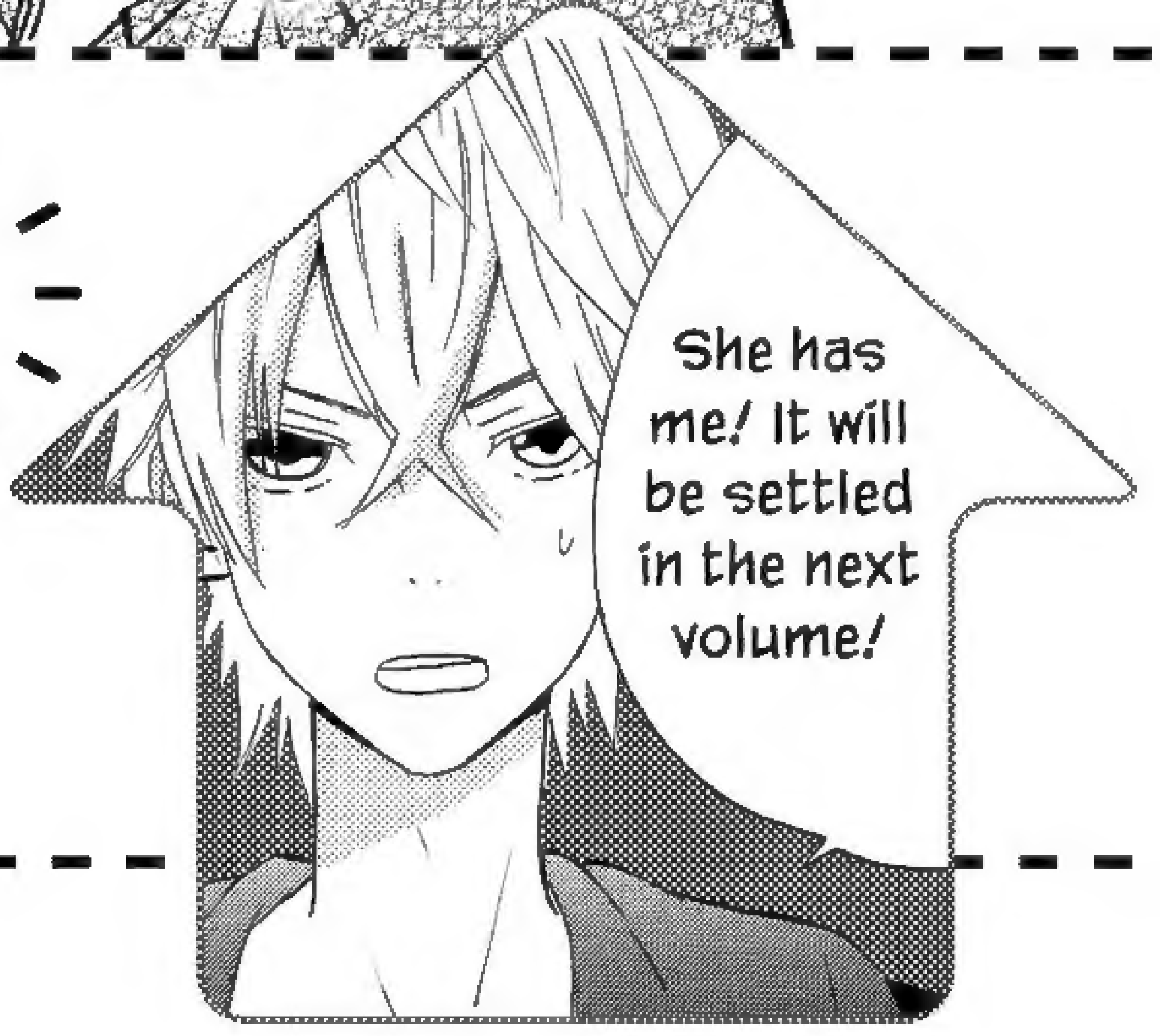
Mao wishes more than anything for Hiro to find happiness.



What decision will he make?!

Will Mao end up alone again?

HOUSE of the SUN 4


She has me! It will be settled in the next volume!

Popular right now!

House of the Sun 3

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

House of the Sun 3 copyright © 2011 Taamo
English translation copyright © 2017 Taamo

All rights reserved.

First published in Japan in 2011 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.
Electronic Publishing rights for this English edition arranged through Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders.

English digital edition published by Kodansha Advanced Media, LLC, San Francisco.

www.kodanshacomics.com

ISBN: 9781682334829

Digital Edition: 1.0.0

Translation by Tania Horowitz
Lettering by Noelle Yamagami
Editing by Jesika Brooks
YKS Services LLC/SKY Japan, INC.